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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,845	04/14/2004	David Hsing Lin	200402290-1	5529
22879 7590 05/14/2008 HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400				
EXAMINER AHLUWALIA, NAVNEET K				
ART UNIT 2166		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 05/14/2008		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,845

Applicant(s)

LIN, DAVID HSING

Examiner

NAVNEET K. AHLUWALIA

Art Unit

2166

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 January 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/28/2008
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/28/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Claims 1 – 22 are pending in this Office Action. After a further search and a thorough examination of the present application, claims 1 – 22 remain rejected. Applicant's arguments filed with respect to claims 1 – 22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

First, Appellant argues that Gao fails to disclose or suggest "marking the subsequent element in the linked-list as in-use after encountering a breakpoint".

In response to the Appellant's argument, the examiner contends that Gao discloses and teaches the "marking the subsequent element in the linked-list as in use after encountering a breakpoint". This teaching in Gao is found in figure 3 and column 3 lines 39 – 47. Furthermore, the instant application defines breakpoint as when control is relinquished and the citations are in parallel with that understanding.

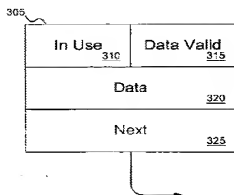


FIG. 3

Furthermore, in column 4 lines 36 – 40 and 62 – 67, Gao discloses the breakpoint being encountered using figure 5 A&B using elements 510 and 525.

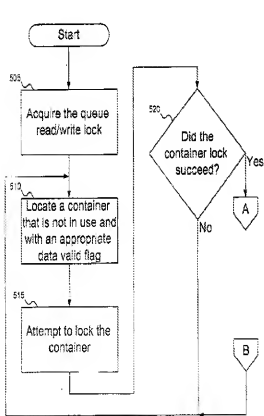


FIG. 5A

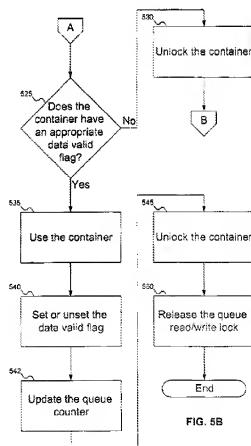


FIG. 5B

Clearly from the figure and the cited text a breakpoint is encountered when a container that is attempted to being used and is locked and set to be in the in-use state and thus is marked.

Second, Appellant argues that Gao fails to disclose or suggest "creating a recommencement reference to [a] subsequent element".

In response to the Appellant's argument, the examiner contends that Gao discloses "creating a recommencement reference to a subsequent element". This teaching in Gao is clearly found in column 2 lines 46 – 58, column3 lines 9 – 16 and lines 56 – 59. when the breakpoint has been marked and the flag set as in-use the recommencement point is the one at breakpoint when the flag is unset or search for another container is made according the algorithm in figure 5A&B cited above. The recommencement is clearly explained and showed by the pointer in the reference.

Claims 5 and 22 recite the same subject matter and for the same reasons as cited above the rejection is maintained. Hence, Applicant's arguments do not distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art of record. In light of the foregoing arguments, the 102 rejections are sustained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gao et al. ('Gao' herein after) (US 6,898,650 B1).

With respect to claim 1,

Gao discloses a method for retrieving data comprising: locking a linked list (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); retrieving data from an element in the linked list and also advancing to a subsequent element while a breakpoint is not encountered (Figure 3, column 3 lines 51 – 59, Gao); marking the subsequent element in the linked-list as in-use when a breakpoint is encountered (column 3 lines 39 – 50, Gao); creating a recommencement reference to the subsequent element (column 4 lines 36 – 49, Gao); and unlocking the linked list (column 4 lines 60 – 66, Gao).

With respect to claim 2,

Gao discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising: locking the linked list (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); determining a subsequent element in the linked list according to the recommencement reference (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); and retrieving data from the determined subsequent element (column 5 lines 10 – 17, Gao).

With respect to claim 3,

Gao discloses the method of claim 1 wherein creating a recommencement reference to the subsequent element comprises: retrieving a pointer to the subsequent element (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); determining a process identifier for a current process (column 2 lines 64 – 67 and column 3 lines 1 – 8, Gao); and associating the pointer with the process identifier (column 3 lines 64 – 67 and column 4 lines 1 – 9, Gao).

With respect to claim 4,

Gao discloses the method of claim 1 wherein marking the subsequent element in the linked-list as in-use comprises maintaining a count of the quantity of processes that require additional access to the element (figure 3 and column 3 lines 39 – 51, Gao).

With respect to claim 5,

Gao discloses a method for deleting an element from a linked list comprising: determining if the element to be deleted is in-use (column 5 lines 10 – 21, Gao); updating a recommencement reference to the element to refer to a data element that is subsequent to the data element to be deleted when the element is in-use (Table 14, Gao); and deleting the element (column 5 lines 25 – 43, Table 14, Gao).

With respect to claim 6,

Gao discloses the method of claim 5 wherein updating a recommencement reference to the element comprises: discovering a pointer associated with a process identifier (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); disassociating the process identifier from the pointer; determining a pointer to a subsequent element (column 5 lines 10 – 17, Gao); and associating the process identifier with the newly determined pointer (column 2 lines 64 – 67 and column 3 lines 1 – 8, Gao).

With respect to claim 7,

Gao discloses an apparatus for storing and retrieving data comprising: processor capable of executing an instruction sequence, memory for storing an instruction sequence, input unit for receiving data (Figures 1, 5A and 5 B, Gao); first output unit for providing data according to a received data request, one or more ancillary output units for providing data according to a received data request (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); instruction sequences stored in the memory including: data storage module that, when executed by the processor, minimally causes the processor to: receive data from the input unit allocate a data element to accommodate the data create a reference to the data element (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); store the reference in at least one of a header pointer and a forward pointer included in a preceding data element and store the data in the data element (column 1 lines 29 – 43, Gao); data service module that, when executed by the processor, minimally causes the processor to: recognize a data request from the first output unit to the exclusion of all other data requests (column 3 lines 51 – 62, Gao); provide data to the first output unit from a data element according to a data

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element reference and also advance the data element reference to a subsequent data element while a breakpoint is not encountered (column 2 lines 31 – 38, Gao); mark a subsequent data element as in-use when a breakpoint is encountered (column 3 lines 39 – 50, Gao); create a recommencement reference to a subsequent data element (column 4 lines 36 – 49, Gao); and enable recognition of other data requests (column 4 lines 60 – 66, Gao).

With respect to claim 8,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data service module, when executed by the processor, further minimally causes the processor to: recognize a data request from the first output unit to the exclusion of all other data requests (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); and provide data to the first output unit from a data element according to the recommencement reference (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao).

With respect to claim 9,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data service module causes the processor to create a recommencement reference by minimally causing the processor to: retrieve a pointer to a data element subsequent to a current data element (column 2 lines 64 – 67 and column 3 lines 1 – 8, Gao); determine an identifier associated with the data request received from the first output unit and store the retrieved pointer and the determined identifier in an associative manner (column 3 lines 64 – 67 and column 4 lines 1 – 9, Gao).

With respect to claim 10,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data service module causes the processor to mark a subsequent data element as in-use by minimally causing the processor to increment a use counter included in a subsequent data element (figure 3 and column 3 lines 39 – 51, Gao).

With respect to claim 11,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 7 wherein the data service module further minimally causes the processor to receive a delete data request from an output unit by minimally causing the processor to: determine if a data element to be deleted is in-use (column 5 lines 10 – 21, Gao); update a recommencement reference to refer to a data element that is subsequent to the data element to be deleted (Table 14, Gao); and delete the data element according to the received delete data request (column 5 lines 25 – 43, Table 14, Gao).

With respect to claim 12,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 11 wherein the data service module causes the processor to update a recommencement reference by minimally causing the processor to: discover a pointer according to a data request identifier (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); and replace the pointer with a pointer to a data element that is subsequent to the data element to be deleted (column 5 lines 10 – 17, Gao).

With respect to claim 13,

Gao discloses a computer readable medium having imparted thereon one or more instruction sequences for storing and retrieving data comprising: data storage module that, when executed by a processor, minimally causes the processor to: receive data from an input unit, allocate a data element to accommodate the data (Figures 1, 5A and 5 B, Gao); create a reference to the data element (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao) store the reference in at least one of a header pointer and a forward pointer included in a preceding data element and store the data in the data element (column 1 lines 29 – 43, Gao); data service module that, when executed by a processor, minimally causes the processor to: recognize a data request from a first output unit to the exclusion of all other data requests (column 3 lines 51 – 62, Gao); provide data to a first output unit from a data element according to a data element reference and also advance the data element reference to a subsequent data element while a breakpoint is not encountered (column 2 lines 31 – 38, Gao); mark a subsequent data element as in-use when a breakpoint is encountered (column 3 lines 39 – 50, Gao); create a recommencement reference to a subsequent data element (column 4 lines 36 – 49, Gao); and enable recognition of other data requests (column 4 lines 60 – 66, Gao).

With respect to claim 14,

Gao discloses the computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the data service module, when executed by a processor, further minimally causes the processor

to: recognize a data request from a first output unit to the exclusion of all other data requests (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); and provide data to a first output unit from a data element according to the recommencement reference (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao).

With respect to claim 15,

Gao discloses the computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the data service module causes a processor to create a recommencement reference by minimally causing the processor to: retrieve a pointer to a data element subsequent to a current data element (column 2 lines 64 – 67 and column 3 lines 1 – 8, Gao); determine an identifier associated with a data request received from a first output unit and store the retrieved pointer and the determined identifier in an associative manner (column 3 lines 64 – 67 and column 4 lines 1 – 9, Gao).

With respect to claim 16,

Gao discloses the computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the data service module causes a processor to mark a subsequent data element as in-use by minimally causing the processor to increment a use counter included in a subsequent data element (figure 3 and column 3 lines 39 – 51, Gao).

With respect to claim 17,

Gao discloses the computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the data service module further minimally causes the processor to receive a delete data request

from an output unit by minimally causing the processor to: determine if a data element to be deleted is in-use (column 5 lines 10 – 21, Gao); update a recommencement reference to refer to a data element that is subsequent to the data element to be deleted (Table 14, Gao); and delete the data element according to the received delete data request (column 5 lines 25 – 43, Table 14, Gao).

With respect to claim 18,

Gao discloses the computer readable medium of claim 17 wherein the data service module causes the processor to update a recommencement reference by minimally causing the processor to: discover a pointer according to a data request identifier (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); and replace the pointer with a pointer to a data element that is subsequent to the data element to be deleted (column 5 lines 10 – 17, Gao).

With respect to claim 19,

Gao discloses an apparatus for storing and retrieving data comprising: means for locking a linked list (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); means for retrieving data from an element in the linked list and also advancing to a subsequent element while a breakpoint is not encountered (Figure 3, column 3 lines 51 – 59, Gao); means for marking the subsequent element in the linked-list as in-use when a breakpoint is encountered (column 3 lines 39 – 50, Gao); means for creating a recommencement reference to the subsequent element (column 4 lines 36 – 49, Gao); and means for

unlocking the linked list (column 4 lines 60 – 66, Gao).

With respect to claim 20,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 19 further comprising: means for locking the linked list (column 2 lines 46 – 54, Gao); means for determining a subsequent element in the linked list according to the recommencement reference (column 5 lines 1 – 9, Gao); and means for retrieving data from the determined subsequent element (column 5 lines 10 – 17, Gao).

With respect to claim 21,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 19 further comprising a means for deleting an element in the linked-list (column 5 lines 10 – 21, Gao).

With respect to claim 22,

Gao discloses the apparatus of claim 21 wherein the means for deleting an element comprises: means for determining if the element to be deleted is in-use (column 5 lines 10 – 21, Gao); means for updating a reference to the element to refer to a subsequent element in the linked list when the element is in-use (Table 14, Gao); and means for deleting the element (column 5 lines 25 – 43, Table 14, Gao).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Navneet K. Ahluwalia whose telephone number is 571-272-5636.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alam T. Hosain can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Navneet K. Ahluwalia/
Examiner, Art Unit 2166

Dated: 05/08/2008

/Hosain T Alam/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2166